Reviewer’s report

Title: Dynamic LED-light versus Static LED-light for depressed inpatients: results from a randomized feasibility trial Title acronym: ROOM-LIGHT feasibility

Version: 0 Date: 04 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Meha Bhatt

Reviewer's report:

This is a feasibility randomized trial investigated the effectiveness of an LED light intervention for patients with a major depressive episode as part of a unipolar or bipolar disorder. Patients were randomized to a static vs. dynamic LED light intervention.

This study is addressing an important question and easy to follow however some revisions are required. Please refer to the comments outlined below:

General comments:
1. Please review the manuscript for language and grammatical errors (e.g. page 5, line 16: Light therapy seem to have relatively few adverse effects). Also suggest revising some sentences for clarity (e.g. page 11, line 1: ...diminished due to long staying of non-eligible patients admitted to one of the four light test rooms.)
2. Please write out the full form of acronyms when they are first used (e.g. Page 6, Line 32: eCRf and CTU, Page 10, Line 9: UKU).

Specific comments:

Background
3. Page 6, Line 6: Suggest to state the specific study population (patients with depressive disorders) in the aim of the study rather than "inpatient psychiatric setting".

Methods:
4. Page 7, Line 4: Does "coercive measures of any kind" refer to if patients are receiving mandatory psychiatric treatment? Please clarify this phrase.
5. For the randomisation strategy, please include further information on how the treatment allocation was concealed and if the participants were blinded to the study hypothesis.

Results:
6. Page 10, Line 38: There is a marked difference in the duration of the current depressive episode between the dynamic and static groups. Could this be due to the small sample size or error in randomisation? Perhaps it should be discussed in the Limitations section.

Discussion:
7. Page 13, Line 55: It is difficult to make the inference that early discharge among patients may be related to faster improvement due to light therapy as they were also receiving other therapies during their stay.

Conclusion:
8. It is excellent that the authors will use the findings from this study to inform a larger definitive
trial. In terms of recruitment, can the light fixtures be made portable so that they can be moved to rooms of eligible participants? Would this option be more feasible than to install lighting in additional patient rooms? And can the eligibility criteria be modified to include patients who are expected to stay in hospital for the duration of the study?

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

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